

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) An optical compensation film comprising a cellulose ester film comprising cellulose ester wherein

- (a) each of photoelastic coefficient C (md) in a mechanical direction and photoelastic coefficient C (td) in a transverse direction of the cellulose ester film is 1×10^{-9} to $1 \times 10^{-13} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$, and C (md) $< C$ (td),
- (b) retardation R_0 within a plane of the cellulose film defined by Formula (I) is 20 to 70 nm,
- (c) retardation R_t of the cellulose ester film in a thickness direction defined by Formula (II) is 70 to 400 nm, and
- (d) each of a dimensional variation ratio S (md) in the mechanical direction and a dimensional variation ratio S (td) in the transverse direction of the cellulose ester film prior to and after being allowed to stand at ambient conditions of 80°C and 90 percent relative humidity for 50 hours are -1 to 1 percent, and $|S(\text{md})| > |S(\text{td})|$.

$$(I) R_0 = (n_x - n_y) \times d$$

$$(II) R_t = \{ (n_x + n_y) / 2 - n_z \} \times d$$

wherein n_x is a refractive index in a transverse direction within a plane, n_y is a refractive index in a mechanical direction within a plane, n_z is a refractive index in a thickness direction of the film, and d is a thickness of the film in nm.

Claim 2 (original) The optical compensation film of claim 1, which comprises an optically anisotropic layer.

Claim 3 (original) The optical compensation film of claim 1, wherein the cellulose ester simultaneously satisfies Formulas (IV) and (V),

$$(IV) \quad 2.55 \leq X + Y \leq 2.85$$

$$(V) \quad 1.4 \leq X \leq 2.85$$

wherein X is a degree of substitution of an acetyl group and Y is a degree of substitution of propionyl group or a butyryl group.

Claim 4 (original) The optical compensation film of claim 1, wherein the cellulose ester has a degree of acetylation of 59.0 to 61.5 percent, and comprises a compound having at least two aromatic rings in an amount of 0.1 to 20 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the cellulose ester.

Claim 5 (original) The optical compensation film of claim 2, wherein the optically anisotropic layer has a fixed nematic hybrid orientation structure.

Claim 6 (original) The optical compensation film of claim 2, wherein the optically anisotropic layer contains a liquid crystal compound.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The optical compensation film of claim ~~7~~ 6, wherein the liquid crystal compound is discotic liquid crystal.

Claim 8 (original) A viewing angle compensation integral type polarizing plate comprising two protective films and a polarizer, wherein at least one of the protective films is the optical compensation film of claim 1, and a delayed phase axis of an ester film in the optical compensation film and a transparent axis of the polarizer are substantially parallel.

Claim 9 (original) A liquid crystal display apparatus employing the viewing angle compensation integral type polarizing plate of claim 8.

Claim 10 (original) A support for an optical compensation film comprising a cellulose ester film comprising cellulose ester wherein

(a) each of the photoelastic coefficient C (md) in a mechanical direction and a photoelastic coefficient C (td) in a transverse direction of the cellulose ester film is 1×10^{-9} to $1 \times 10^{-13} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$, and C (md) $<$ C (td),

- (b) retardation R_0 within a plane of the cellulose film defined by Formula (I) is 20 to 70 nm,
- (c) retardation R_t of the cellulose ester film in a thickness direction defined by Formula (II) is 70 to 400 nm, and
- (d) each of a dimensional variation ratio S (md) in the mechanical direction and a dimensional variation ratio S (td) in the transverse direction of the cellulose ester film prior to and after being allowed to stand at ambient conditions of 80°C and 90 percent relative humidity for 50 hours are -1 to 1 percent, and $|S(\text{md})| > |S(\text{td})|$.

$$(I) R_0 = (n_x - n_y) \times d$$

$$(II) R_t = \{ (n_x + n_y) / 2 - n_z \} \times d$$

wherein n_x is a refractive index in a transverse direction within a plane, n_y is a refractive index in a mechanical direction within a plane, n_z is a refractive index in a thickness direction of the film, and d is a thickness of the film in nm.